

LODI

Incorporated October 20, 1988

VOLUME 15, NUMBER 4

# LODI HISTORIAN

WINTER 2004

## EARLY LODI MERCHANTS

by Ralph Lea & Janice Roth



Charles Ivory's first merchant store at the northwest corner of Pine and Sacramento Streets in the early 1870's.  
Inset: C.O. Ivory statement.





▲ C.O. Ivory's two daughters standing in front of his store on North Sacramento Street in Lodi. This picture was taken before the devastating fire of 1887.



*Wm. C. Ivory*  
To *W. D. Smith & Sons, Dr.*  
THE "PIONEER" MEAT MARKET.  
FRESH AND SALT MEATS CONSTANTLY ON HAND.  
CELEBRATED SNOWFLAKE LARD.  
Interest Charged after 30 Days.  
PEPPERLESS COOKED CORNED BEEF

<i>Dec 31</i>	<i>To Bal brought f. by bill from Oct 1870</i>	<i>203.08</i>
<i>1889</i>	<i>Credits</i>	
<i>Nov 29</i>	<i>By Cash</i>	<i>2.00</i>
<i>Dec 31</i>	<i>By 2 boxes 842 @ 50¢</i>	<i>17.10</i>
<i>Jan 4</i>	<i>By Wood</i>	<i>5.50</i>
<i>" 14</i>	<i>By Pasture</i>	<i>2.50</i>
<i>Mar 31</i>	<i>" 1 box</i>	<i>8.90</i>
<i>Aug 11</i>	<i>" 1 box</i>	<i>8.65</i>
<i>" 13</i>	<i>" 1 box</i>	<i>8.10</i>
		<i>203.08</i>

▲ The Smith Building, located on Pine Street where Burton's Shoe Store later stood. The upstairs was referred to as Smith's Opera House.

Charles Oscar Ivory came to California from New York in 1853. He settled in Stockton, became a Blacksmith and wagon maker and moved to Woodbridge in 1867 to practice his trade. Ivory met Major John M. Burt and they started in the merchandise business and in the fall of 1869 moved their business to Mokelumne (early Lodi) becoming the first merchant in town.

The Central Pacific Railroad owned all of the odd numbered lots in the new town. John Burt sold his interest

in the General Merchandise Store to his partner C.O. Ivory and in early 1870 became a station agent for the C.P.R.R. and began to sell lots to buyers.

The street parallel to the railroad tracks on the east side was named Main Street. That portion of Mokelumne had been owned by R.L. Wardrope who didn't have a clear title at that time so the "main" street moved west of the tracks on to Sacramento Street. The first block to develop was from Pine to Elm streets on Sacramento,

then Pine to Oak Street and north of Elm Street on both sides with two big livery stables on the east side.

The first store, Ivory's, was at the northwest corner of Pine and Sacramento. The street also had three more general stores, Michael Marks, Samuels and Cohen, and John Levinsky who had a store in Woodbridge. The block also had five saloons, Silvanus, Ripley, Jacob Woler, A. Bunds, Job Marsh and G.W. Emerson.

The first hotel, Hooker House, was





In 1876 the Lodi Mill and Warehouse Company erected a flour mill in Lodi on North Main Street. This was the same year ▲ that the farmers prevailed over the railroad.

located on Sacramento Street by the railroad at North Street, now called Lockeford Street. George Crist was the proprietor and Daniel Crist was Mokelumne's first postmaster located in the hotel. Earlier they both owned stores in Woodbridge as well as John J. Collins with his stoves and tin ware shop. Byron de la Beckwith started the first drug store and also had an insurance agency.

James A. Ellison had the first livery and sale stable and with partner W. Jacobs operated the stage line to Mokelumne Hill.

In 1870 the Union Church was built by the citizens and J.E. Spencer and partner John Flanigan started a hotel called the Spencer House at the southwest corner of Pine and Sacramento streets.

Dr. C.V. Williamson, physician, moved his practice to Mokelumne from Woodbridge. Wm. Pitcher and early Lodi pioneer, Charles H. Gordon, who

trained in the civil war (husband of Laura DeForce), comprised the town's three doctors.

Blacksmiths were in demand with Harvey Smith, Geo. McCarthy, and Wm. Christie on duty. Jacob Baker had harnesses and saddles for sale. Wagon makers were A.T. Rutledge and Long Lee. Robert Cope was the shoemaker.

Wm. Elger & Co. had a brewery, George W. Hill was the watchmaker and John Mundell had a hair dresser shop. Robert and H.M. Leffler were lumber dealers. J.R. Flanagan was a brickmaker and Matthews & Lucas, were grain dealers.

Henry Lamont was the butcher, M.J. Shaw sold poultry and grain, and B.S. Clark had a hay yard. J.J. Flanders was a contractor and builder, and William B. Arnold, brickmason and plasterer.

Isaac N. Stretch was a carpenter and Mokelumne's first subdivider. He purchased all the lots south of Pine Street from Sacramento Street to School

Street for \$1000 and built many of the first buildings.

In 1876 the Lodi Mill and Warehouse Co. built the three story flouring mill on Main Street at Locust Street. Ralph Ellis built the plant for \$30,000. George S. Locke held the mortgage and leased the plant to Stockton's Sperry and Co. In 1880 Thomas E. Cooney operated the plant, but 18 months later Corson, Lasell and Silas Wright were the operators.

The oldest business building in Lodi was built by the Lodi Hall Association on the southwest corner of Sacramento Street and Elm Street in 1876 for \$16,000. This was a two story brick building. The first floor of the Granger building would hold a general merchandise store for A.L. Levinsky, Freidberger-Kaiser and later McCullums. The upstairs was a social hall for Lodi. The Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythians and Masons met there, and many town events were held at this location.





▲ The Lodi Hotel in the 1890's.



▲ The 00 block of north Sacramento Street, looking south before 1907.

**LODI HOTEL**  
THE SAN JUAN HOTEL  
SAN JUAN, CALIF.

Lodi, Cal. June 9<sup>th</sup> 1898  
Lodi Chapter No 150  
O. E. S.

Mrs. O. O. Lerry  
Lodi, California Feb 20, 1898

**Bought of C. A. RICH,**  
DEALER IN  
**GENERAL MERCHANDISE.**

Items purchased: 40, 365, 70, 275, 70, 690

1/9 1/2 dozen Butter 40  
2/1 Case Coal oil 25 1/2 Case Butter 365  
3/7 Case Butter 70  
4/1 Case Butter 15 1/2 Case Ham 275  
5/1 Case Butter 15 1/2 Case Ham 70  
6/1 Case 30 3 1/2 Case Pork 25  
7/2 Case 30 3 1/2 Case Pork 690

Charles A. Rich, far left, store owner and one of Lodi's first trustees, standing in front of his store with other Lodi businessmen.



Photo courtesy of Julia Gillespie



▲ The Fashion Stable was on the east side of north Sacramento Street. It was owned by Johnny Dougherty and later became Rinfret's Stable. The swinging doors on the right side lead to the Fashion Saloon.

**To W. STEACY, Dr.**  
**Wagonmaker and General Blacksmith,**  
MAIN STREET, LODI, CALIFORNIA.

Particular attention paid to Horseshoeing. Agents for the Russell Improved Plow, Etc.

Jan 6	2 hours	1.50
Mar 11	1 double tire	1.50
July 10	Ref. wheel & 2 tires	5.50
Nov 12	work on plow	1.50
Dec 2	Ref. pump & tire	2.50
Jan 15	Ref. plow	1.25
.. 20	Making round drill iron	1.50
..	2 tires	2.50
..	Building 2 cartwheels	1.50
		\$18.60

Lodi, Cal.  
To R. L. GR  
Drugs, Me  
Supplies a

1900

Jan 2 26.70  
11 31.30  
21 48.40  
24 53.50  
25 65  
29 76.70  
Feb 5 88  
11 91.90  
12 98.  
15 08.  
27 19.  
Mar 4 2.  
31 30.  
Apr 3 44







▲ The Lodi Water Works and Planing Mill, Cary Brothers, proprietors.



"Order Eastern Star  
 Lodi, California, Aug 11/1910  
 To The Lodi Water Works and Planing Mill Dr.  
 CARY BROTHERS, PROPRIETORS.  
 Sings, Brackets, Window and Door Frames and General Finish. All Sizes of Tanks Made.  
 Plans and Ornamental Designs Furnished.  
 Terms Reasonable.  
 In second installment of fire  
 protection as subscribed \$1.00



CALIFORNIA *Full*

LODI, CALIFORNIA. *Feb 19...*

Received from Mrs. C. O. Levy  
the sum of Three  $\frac{3}{4}$  Dollars  
in full by Insurance on Board  
Ruler No 1146669 - in this Pro-  
-creation of Philadelphia

Geo. San Joaquin Co. Cal. *July 5th 1890*  
 To P. T. TURNER, DR  
 SURGICAL AND MECHANICAL DENTIST  
 700

July 1	Good contour (small) filling	3 50
" 2	" filling	2 50
" 3	"	2 50
" 4	" front contour	5 00
" 5	Narrow tooth and root filling and gold buccal contour large	12 50
Aug 5	Gold filling	3 00
" 10	" Band filling	5 00
" 9	Good fillings @ \$2.00	8 00
" 10		



The northwest corner of  
Sacramento and Pine  
Streets, 1900.





▲ Peirano Provisions.

It would be 1878 before Lodi published its first newspaper. The Valley Review, with Gertie DeForce Cluff as editor and publisher.

By this time there were five general merchandise stores, Ivory's, Levinsky's plus C.A. Rich, J.J. Collins and Isaac Smith. The town still had five saloons but all had new owners. E.C. Bresters' Cosmopolitan Saloon, A.C. Chambers Saloon, Riffle Saloon, Thomas J. James' Saloon and J.W. Dougherty's Fashion Stables and Saloon.

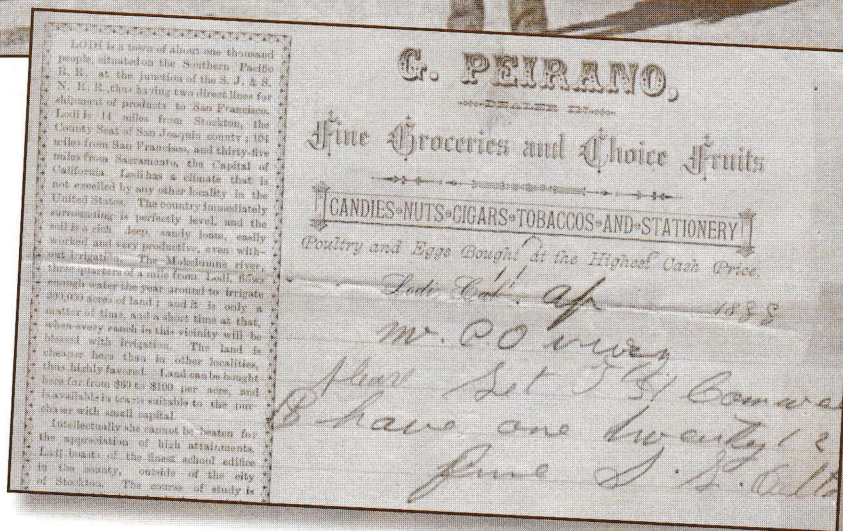
The houses in Lodi were mostly being built just west of downtown on School Street. When the town grew the homes had to be moved. First the zero west blocks of Pine and Elm streets, and by 1904 School Street north and south of Pine showed commercial growth. About the same

time Main Street developed packing sheds on the railroad track side as well as stores, hotels and eating places, including Japanese and some Chinese. Owners Keagle and Peirano moved stores east of the track on Pine Street.

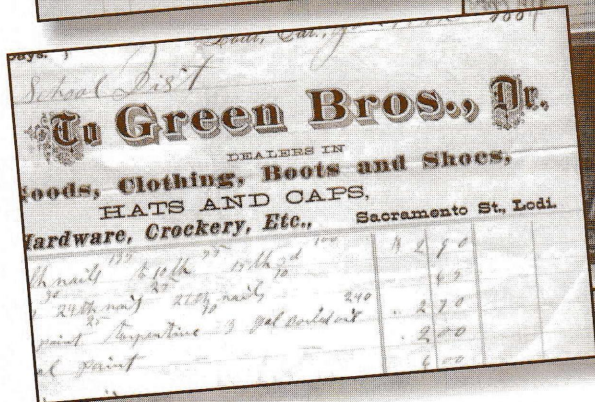
W.D. Smith and Sons had their meat market in Woodbridge until the

mid 1870's but then moved to Lodi and captured most of the business.

The town of Lodi, fifteen years after being laid out, had about 1400 inhabitants, two churches and a new \$10,000 school, Salem School, with five teachers. There were six telephones in Lodi all connected to the Graham's Drug Store.







H.W. Madison Store ▲

The general merchandise stores at the time were Ivory's, Granger's Co-op, John Levinsky's, Charles A. Rich's, Green Brothers and Solomon Craner's.

Horses and wagons played a major role in the town. Four livery stables existed, John W. Dougherty,

There were also four shoe or boot makers, John A. Schu, Thomas H. Niel, L. Horn, and Alfred Guillemard.





▲ 1900; (l to r): Al Dutschke, Al Dutschke, Jr., Herman Dutschke, Unknown, Perry Sollars, Charles Sollars, Unknown.

Inset: Charles Sollars, owner of the Lodi Soda Works, was born in 1859 and was shot and killed in 1911 by Sam B. Axtell, editor of the Lodi Sentinel.



PUBLISHED WITH A  
GRANT FROM THE LODI  
ARTS COMMISSION

### THE LODI HISTORIAN

is a quarterly publication of the Lodi Historical Society  
P.O. Box 264, Lodi, CA 95241-0264

\*Ralph Lea ..... Editor

\*Lucy Reller ..... Assistant Editor

#### LODI HISTORICAL SOCIETY

#### 2004-05 Board of Directors

Norma Reeves ..... President

Mary Jane East ..... 1st Vice President

Mae Heimitz ..... 2nd Vice President

Leonard Messer ..... Secretary

Nancy Schmer ..... Treasurer

Lynn Benbrook, Dan Biskup, Ella Darcy,

\*Ralph M. Lea, Eric Neff,

Andrea Songey-Neff, Janice Roth,

Lynn Sausser, and Jim Taylor.

#### HISTORY COMMITTEE

Ralph M. Lea, Chairman

Susanne Benbrook, Helen Crittenden,

Evelyn Hassbaum, Maxine Kelley, Jean Kettelman,

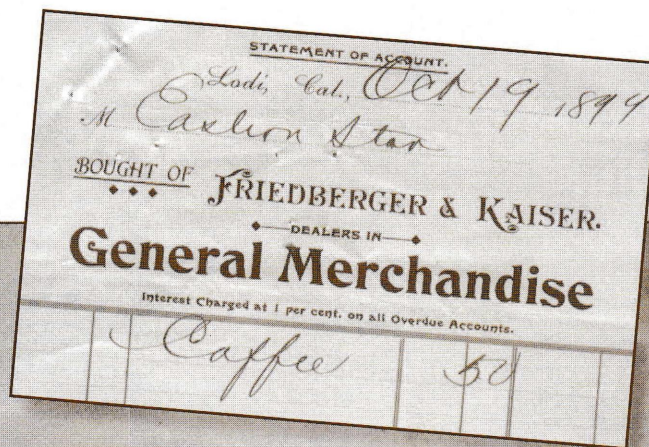
Gladys Mettler, Hugh Metcalf, and Lucy Reller.

\*History Committee Member

All rights to reproduction are reserved

Permission to quote or use material herein should be obtained in writing

www.lodihistory.org



▲ Sacramento Street, looking south from Elm Street, Friedberger & Kaiser store is on the right.

Photo courtesy of Nancy Schmer